

Itinerant justices in Kent : 1255 : Eyre of Gilbert of Preston and others

There is one surviving roll, JUST 1/361, large extracts from which were printed in translation by Furley (1874).

Fines were levied before these justices at Canterbury between 25 June and 22 July (*Feet of fines*, pp 261-73), at Rochester on 11 August (p 273), and at Canterbury again between 30 September and 13 October (pp 273-8). One of these fines (dated 15 July) is printed in full by Thorpe (1769, pp 609, from *Reg temp*, fos 46v-7r): the justices named here are Gilbert de Preston, Roger de Wincestre, Willelm de Cobeham and Willelm de Engelfeld.

A session was held at Tonbridge on 20 October (see below), but no fines were issued there.

A few unfinished cases were adjourned to Chichester (see below), so it is clear that the justices were heading for Sussex next. Some Kent fines were issued there, between 3 and 25 November (*Feet of fines*, pp 278-9).

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Extracts in Furley (1874, pp 30-64)

"Pleas of the Crown of the county of Kent, before G. de Preston and his associates, justices in eyre, at Canterbury, on <25 Jun> the morrow of St. John the Baptist, in the 39th year of the reign of King Henry, son of King John." [1255].

<Blackbourne hd>

"Margaret, daughter of William Miles, fell into a certain vessel full of glue, in the borough of Herlakedene [Harlackenden], and [was] scalded, so that on the morrow of the day after she died. ...

"Walter, son of William, and Richard, son of Henry, were burnt in the house of Henry, father of the said Richard, in the borough of Kenardington. ... No Englishry. ...

"Avicia de la Helde was found drowned in a certain ditch in the borough of Thorndenne. ...

"Adam, son of Philip, killed Thomas de Alkindene in the borough of Herlakindene; and Adam was taken and imprisoned in the prison of Rochester, and died in that prison. ... No Englishry.

"Agnes, who was the wife of Richard de Gunneresdene, was found burnt in her own oven, in the borough of Ponindene. ... Richard, husband of the same Agnes, [was] attached for the aforesaid death. ... And the twelve jurors of that hundred, together with the hundred of Thendwardene [Tenterden], and the four nearest villa, say upon their oath that he is not guilty. ...

"Andrew de Apeldre fell from a certain horse, in the borough of Apeldre, so that he immediately died thereof. ... Price of the horse, 10s. [The deodand.]

"Unknown malefactors broke into the house of Isabella the laundress, in the borough of Edricheshamme, and killed the same Isabella, and Alice, her daughter. ...

"Allan de Radingate [Ridingate], of Canterbury, was taken with the hide of a certain stolen heifer, in Hamme, and imprisoned, and afterwards taken to the county, and from the county brought back to the hundred, and delivered to the Hundred of Punindene [Peninden ?], and escaped from that custody to the church of Smerdene. Therefore to judgment concerning the escape upon the borough of Punindene. And the same Alan escaped from the aforesaid church; therefore to judgment concerning the escape upon the vill of Smerdene. And Alan fled, and is suspected; therefore let him be banished and outlawed. To inquire concerning his chattels and borough in the city of Canterbury.

"Hamon Pykewold was taken for suspicion of larceny of sheep and lambs. ... Guilty. ..."

<Tenterden hd>

"Ralph de Bubehurst was found dead, having many wounds, on the sea shore in co. Sussex. No discoverer was attached, because he was found on the sea shore. And the twelve jurors testify that a certain Hamon, son of Ranulph de Berton, and Juliana, wife of the aforesaid Ralph, killed the same Ralph and immediately fled. And the aforesaid Hamon put himself into the church of Adesham, and afterwards escaped therefrom; therefore to judgment concerning the escape upon the vill of Adesham. And the aforesaid Juliana was taken and imprisoned in the Archbishop's prison at Maydenestan, and escaped therefrom to the church of Detlinen [Debtling], and confessed the deed, and abjured the realm before the coroner. And to judgment concerning the escape upon the aforesaid Archbishop. And the aforesaid Hamon is suspected; therefore let him be banished and outlawed. They have no chattels; and Hamon was not in a borough, because [he was] a clerk.

"Olive, wife of Thomas de Cattingeheld, appealed in the county [court] Margaret wife of Ralph de la Legh, touching the death of Clement, her son. And Olive now came, and withdrew herself from against her [Margaret]; therefore let her [Olive] be committed to gaol, and her pledges for the prosecution [de pros.] in mercy, to wit, Roger Le Flemeng; and the other pledge has died. ... [The further proceedings follow.]

"Clement, son of Olive, a boy of the age of twelve years, was found dead in his bed in the vill of Thendwardene. ... And Margaret, wife of Ralph de la Legh, was taken and imprisoned. ... The twelve jurors of that hundred, together with twelve of the hundred of Rulvendene and Blakedene, and the four nearest vills, say upon their oath that the aforesaid Margaret is guilty of the

aforesaid death; therefore, etc. And because she is pregnant, therefore let her be committed to gaol until, etc. And it is testified by the twelve that the aforesaid Ralph de la Legh, husband of the aforesaid Margaret, is guilty of the aforesaid death, and has withdrawn himself; therefore let him be banished and outlawed. His chattels, 7s. ... The same had land, whereof the year and waste of the Lord the King 7s., for which the same sheriff is responsible. And he was in the borough of John Odierne in Reding; therefore in mercy.

"The jurors present that Henry de Smalelide [Smallhythe] was wounded in Thendwardenne, so that on the eighth day afterwards he died thereof. ... Henry de Stoke comes and produces letters of the Lord the King directed to the Justices in Eyre in these words:— 'Know ye that whereas a provision was given to our dearly beloved clerk Henry de Wingham, of the church of Thendwardene, by John Maunsel, provost of Beverley, who is deputed by the Pope for this purpose, and the procurators of the same Henry stood in full possession of the same church, certain persons, intending to expel the said procurators from the aforesaid possession, came with an armed band to disturb the possession of our aforesaid clerk, and as the same procurators and other men of the same Henry resisted, a conflict took place there, in which Henry de la Smalelide was wounded, so that he died of those wounds, as is said. And whereas many appeals had been made on one side and the other in the county aforesaid, and we had caused the same appeals to come before us, we have caused the same appeals to be determined according to the law and custom of our realm in our court; and we have pardoned to all and singular persons accused therein the suit of our peace, which belonged to us, as well concerning the death aforesaid as the appeals made on both sides, and have granted them our firm peace therein by our letters patent. And therefore we command you that if any representation shall be made before you in your iter in the county aforesaid concerning the death aforesaid, or concerning any other thing perpetrated in the aforesaid conflict against our peace, you shall not, by reason of the suit which pertains to us therein, intermeddle therewith; because we do not wish any one in future to be troubled in that matter. Witness, myself, at Clarendon, 24th day of May, the 39th year of our reign.

"John son of Simon and Henry Honiman beat William de Doningburn, so that within five weeks afterwards he died thereof. ... Henry de Honiman afterwards put himself into the church of Wodechirch. [Took sanctuary.]

"Oliver de Gaway, taken for suspicion of larceny and robbery, comes and says that he is a clerk, and that he ought not to make answer here. And thereupon comes the Dean of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and claims him as a clerk; and he is delivered to him because he is a foreigner [i. e. a Norman?] and a traveller (itinerant).

<Rolvenden hd>

"William Tose struck Thomas Le Sumeter with a certain knife in the belly in Rulundene, so that he immediately died thereof. ... And

William immediately fled, and put himself into the church of the Rye, in the county of Sussex, and abjured the realm before the coroner. His chattels, 2s. 4d. ... The same had land, whereof the year and waste of the Lord King [are] 2s. 6d.; ... and he was in the borough of Richard De la Le (of Lee) in Meyhamme; therefore in mercy. And Edith, wife of the aforesaid Thomas, Adam Cnobbil, and William Springet, attached for that they were present when the aforesaid Thomas was killed, come; and the jurors testify that they are not guilty of the aforesaid death; therefore they are quit therefrom. And because the aforesaid Adam and William did not take the same William, therefore in mercy. And the vill of Rulundene buried him without view of the coroner; therefore in mercy. And the twelve jurors falsely appraised those chattels; therefore in mercy.

"Ralph La Weyte struck Adam de Croucheshorne with a certain club on the head, so that on the eighth day afterwards he died thereof. And Ralph fled, and put himself into the church of Rulvendene, and abjured the realm before the coroner. His chattels, 8s. ... The same had land, whereof the year and waste of the Lord King [are] 18s. ... And William Le Weyte, Eustace his brother, and William the Smith, taken for suspicion of the aforesaid death and imprisoned in the prison of Rochester, ... defend the death. ... And the twelve jurors of the hundreds of Selfbrytesdene, Tendwardene, and the four nearest villis say upon their oath that they are not guilty. ... Eustace de Hamstede was taken for that he was present when the aforesaid Adam was struck; and he was delivered into the bail of Thomas de Mapeldene and of all his borough, to have him before the Justices here, and they had him not on the first day; therefore in mercy. And Eustace now comes, and defends the death. ... And the twelve jurors of that hundred, together with the half hundred of Bernefeud [Barnfield], say upon their oath that he is not guilty. ...

"Eustace son of Simon and Alice his sister were burnt in the house of Adam de Everdene in the borough of Everdene, by misfortune. ...

"Concerning those who have withdrawn the suits of the hundred [court], they say that the tenants of the Archbishop in the same hundred have withdrawn themselves from the suit of the hundred by Simon, the bailiff of the Archbishop; whereas they always used to do suit at the hundred from three weeks to three weeks; and they have withdrawn themselves from that suit now two years past by the aforesaid Simon; therefore to be imparled therein. They say also that the tenants of the Abbot of Robert's Bridge in Benindene and Sandhyrst, have withdrawn themselves from the aforesaid suit in the same manner. And thereupon comes the attorney of the same Abbot, and produces a charter of the present Lord King, in which is contained that the same King granted to the aforesaid Abbot and to the monks of the aforesaid Abbey [that] they should hold all their holdings freely and quietly from all gilds, danegelds, scutages, hidages, shires, hundreds, and armies, and from aids of sheriffs and their bailiffs, and [have] the chattels of fugitives, in pure and perpetual alms, etc.

"Concerning encroachments, they say that William son of Adam de

Cranewell made an encroachment on the Lord King in the borough of Meyham, by occupying to himself, upon the King's highway, three feet of land in breadth and about thirty feet in length; therefore in mercy. And the sheriff was commanded to cause the aforesaid encroachment to be amended, [and] whatever might be to the injury, etc. Afterwards, because it was testified that that encroachment could stand [without] any injury, therefore he may make a fine if he will, etc."

<Selbrittenden hd>

"Concerning new customs, they say that a certain Simon de Linchedenn holds the assize of bread and ale of the tenants of the Archbishop without the hundred of the Lord King, which pleas the bailiff of the Lord King was always accustomed to bring into the hundred [court] of the Lord King, and to determine, until now three years past, when the aforesaid Simon by force drew to himself such liberty. Therefore to be imparled therein.

<Barkley hd>

"Roger, son of Richard le Simere, of the age of three years, fell into a certain well in the court of his father, in the vill of Iberdene, so that he was immediately drowned. The first discoverer and four neighbours come, and are not suspected, nor any one else. Judgment: misfortune. And the town of Iberdene buried him without view of the coroner, by Hugh le Waleys; therefore in mercy. And the aforesaid Hugh in mercy because he acted the part of the coroner. And the twelve jurors present that the aforesaid Roger was buried by the coroner, and the same coroner testifies that he was not viewed by him, but by the aforesaid Hugh, his clerk; therefore [the jurors are] in mercy.

"Robert de la Grave was kicked by a certain horse in the vill of Bidingdene, so that on the morrow he died thereof. Four neighbours, attached for the said death, come, and are not suspected, nor any one else. Judgment: misfortune. Price of the horse, 6s., for which the same sheriff is responsible. And the vill of Bidingdene buried him without view of the coroner, by William the bailiff; therefore in mercy.

"Unknown malefactors broke into the house of Mabel de Deningdene, in Deningdene, and killed the same Mabel, and carried off the goods found there. It is not known who they were, and the vill of Deningdene made no suit, and likewise buried her without view of the coroner; therefore in mercy.

"Willard de Eslindene fell from a certain cart, in the town of Eslindene, and that cart turned over upon him, and broke his arm thereby, and afterwards he died therefrom. Price of the cart, 5s., for which the same sheriff is responsible. Judgment: misfortune.

"Concerning new customs, they say that Simon de Lecchindeno holds the assize of bread and ale of the tenants of the Archbishop without the hundred of the Lord King, &c., [as in the hundred of

Selbrittenden].

"The jurors present that the aforesaid Simon took Roger de Thechmundene and Thomas de Sussex, and imprisoned them, and detained them in prison at Badekelegh, because they deforced from a certain Walter de Everle a certain distress which he had taken from them for his annual rent, and afterwards permitted them to go away. Therefore to sentence concerning him.

"John de Ridene and Hawysia his wife were taken for the reception of Richard Le Cupere (the Cooper or Cowper). They come and defend the reception and the whole, and for good and evil put themselves on the country. And the twelve jurors and the four nearest vills say upon their oath that they are not guilty of any misdeed. Therefore they are acquitted therefrom.

"John de Iburghdenne and John de Wockingdenne were taken, for that they were in the company of a certain Ralph Spirenigge, and for other misdeeds. They come and defend the company, the robbery, and the whole, etc., and for good and evil put themselves on the country. Acquitted.

"Joyce de Beningdene was taken for suspicion of robbery, for that he conducted himself foolishly in Maydenestan. And now he comes not. And the jurors testify that he is not guilty of any misdeed. And Simon de Rugel, Ralph, son of Simon de Rugel, ... Osbert de Meriedenne [and others] mainprised him, to have [him] before the Justices here; and they had him not on the first day; therefore in mercy.

"John de Dokelindene, taken for suspicion of robbery, comes and defends the larceny and the whole, and for good and evil puts himself on the country. And Elyas Neng, taken for stealing oxen and sheep, ... [docs likewise]. And the twelve jurors of that hundred, together with the hundred of Cranebrook [Cranbrook] and the four nearest vills, say upon their oath that the aforesaid Elyas is guilty of several robberies; therefore, etc. His chattels, half a mark, for which the same sheriff is answerable.

<Cranbrook hd>

"John, son of Simon at the Cross, and Cecily de Kadekerigge, were found killed, in the house of the aforesaid Cecily, by unknown malefactors, in the borough of Smethedich. ... No Englishry. ...

"Walter, son of Elwyn, was found crushed by certain timber, in the borough of West. ... Misfortune. ...

"Adam, son of Lewyn, struck William Fitz Walter with a certain andiron in the navel so that on the third day he died. ...

"Concerning defaults, they say that Simon de Munford (Montfort), earl of Leicester, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, did not come on the first day; therefore in mercy. And the twelve jurors concealed the aforesaid defaults; therefore in mercy."

"Concerning indicted persons, they say that Wylard le Marescal (the Marshal) of Cranebroke has withdrawn himself, and is suspected. Therefore let him be banished and outlawed. His chattels, 6d. ... And he was in the borough of Robert le But, in West-borough [West Borgha]; therefore in mercy."

<Great Barnfield hd>

"Simon, son of Christiana, struck William of Suffolk with a certain club on the head, so that on the morrow he died thereof. ... Reginald Forester took his chattels without warrant; therefore in mercy. And he was in the borough of Robert le Jeusne (the young) in Hauekehyrst; therefore [the borough is] in mercy. And the vill of Hauekehyrst with the borough of Suth (South) buried him without view of the coroner; therefore in mercy."

<Newenden>

"A man was felling an oak tree in the wood of Lossinham, when it fell on him and killed him. Judgment: misfortune. Price of the oak, 7d.

"Agnes, daughter of Ralph le Jeusne, was found killed in the East-borough of Selfbrithesdene [Selbrittenden] by unknown malefactors. The said East-borough buried her without view of the coroner, etc. William Chaumpeneys, accused of the said death, puts himself on the country, and offers 20s. to the King that the inquest shall be taken together with the two nearest hundreds. It is received by certain pledges. And the twelve jurors of this hundred, with those of Ruvelindene and Selfbrithesdene, and the four nearest vills, say upon their oath that he is not guilty.

"Wine sold contrary to the assize.

"The assize of bread and ale of the Archbishop's tenants is now held without the King's hundred, but until three years ago the King's bailiff used to bring those pleas into the Hundred [Court] of the King.

<Marden hd>

"Martin Fitz William struck Gunildar, wife of Robert the turner, with a certain club on the head, so that on the morrow she died. And Martin immediately fled, and put himself into the church of Maydenestan, and abjured the realm before the coroner. His chattels, 15d., for which the same sheriff is responsible. And he was in the borough of Allan de Bovesdene, of Fatindene [Frittenden?]; therefore in mercy. Four neighbours come, and are not suspected. And the vill of Merdenne buried her without view of the coroner; therefore in mercy. And the twelve jurors made no mention in their roll concerning the neighbours attached; therefore in mercy.

"Ralph Cobbe put himself into the church of Maydenestan, and confessed that he was a thief of many thefts, and abjured the realm before the coroner. His chattels, 6d. ...

"William, son of Richard de Hamme, John, Henry, and Richard, brothers of the same William, and William Le Fevre, beat and wounded Walter de Twysden, in the vill of Gouthurst, so that on the eighth day after he died thereof. ...

"Michael de Chedhirst, charged with stealing sheaves of wheat in autumn, has withdrawn himself, and is not suspected; therefore let him return, if he will, but let his chattels be confiscated for his flight. ...

"They [the jurors] say that the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Prior of Canterbury, the Abbot of Boxle, and the Earl of Leicester, do not permit the bailiffs of the Lord King to enter into their lands to make summonses and distrainments. Therefore to be imparled therein."

<Summerden hd>

"Hawisia, daughter of Walter, was found crushed in a certain marlpit in the vill of Ferndene, so that on the morrow she died. Judgment: misfortune. And the vill of Ferndene buried her without view of the coroner, by Giles the bailiff; therefore in mercy.

"Alice, the daughter of Sibilla, was found crushed under a branch of a certain ash tree in the vill of Ferndene. Judgment: misfortune. Price of the branch, 1d., for which the sheriff is answerable. And the twelve jurors concealed the price of the branch in the roll; therefore in mercy.

"Gregory Fitz Abel struck Thomas Scut with a certain knife in the belly in Ferndene, so that he immediately died. ... Part of his chattels in the Archbishop's fee, part in the Earl of Gloucester's fee. No Englishry; therefore the murder upon the Hundred; and the vill of Ferndene made no suit, but buried him without view of the coroner; therefore in mercy. And the twelve jurors concealed the chattels in their roll, in part; therefore in mercy.

"William, son of William de Berkfold, and Matilda, his sister, children of three years, were found burnt in the house of their father in Cransted. Judgment: misfortune. And the vill of Cransted buried the aforesaid dead without view of the coroner; therefore in mercy.

"The jurors present that the men of the borough of Hildene, which belongs to the Earl of Gloucester, and is within this Hundred, were always wont to do suit at this Hundred, and to answer with the other boroughs at the sheriffs tourn, and before the Justices with the Hundreds; and Hubert de Burgh withdrew the suit and the same borough from this Hundred to the Lowy of Tunebrige, when he had the custody of the land and heir of the Earl of Gloucester: and they have never since done suit at this Hundred; therefore to be imparled therein.

"They say also that the bailiffs of the aforesaid Earl have withdrawn the suit of the borough of the men of Derkingehole to

the Lowy of Tunebrige, which [borough] was always wont to do suit at this Hundred until the feast of St. Michael in 38th King Henry (1254); therefore to be imparled therein.

"Concerning defaults, they say that the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Earl of Gloucester did not appear on the first day; therefore in mercy. And the twelve jurors concealed those defaults; therefore in mercy."

<Westerham hd>

Seven men, accused of "misdoing in parks "[poaching], are acquitted.

"Ralph le Carboner struck Richard le Rede with a certain axe on the head, in the town of Eltham. ... And the vill of Pontis Edulmi [Edenbridge] buried the aforesaid dead man without view of the coroner; therefore in mercy. ...

"Elena, the wife of William de Glepfeld, was crushed in a certain marl-pit by misfortune in Glepfeld. ... The jury concealed the Englishry; therefore in mercy. ...

"Hawisia, daughter of Hawysia, was found burnt in her mother's house, with the aforesaid house, in the vill of Westeram-stede. Hawysia, the first discoverer, and four neighbours come, and are not suspected. Judgment: misfortune. And the vill of Westeram buried the aforesaid dead person without view of the coroner, by Giles the bailiff; therefore in mercy.

"Martin le Font, of Redryde, struck Henry the baker, of Bradested, with a certain knife, so that he died immediately. And the aforesaid Martin immediately fled, and is suspected. Therefore let him be banished and outlawed. Nothing is known touching his chattels or his borough, because [he is] of the hundred of Cotteshethe. The first discoverer and four neighbours come, and are not suspected. No Englishry; therefore the murder upon the hundred. And the vill of Bradested buried the aforesaid dead man without view of the coroner; therefore in mercy. And the vills of Hevere, Codenne, and Chidingstone came not to the inquest; therefore in mercy. And the jurors falsely presented Englishry; therefore in mercy. And it was testified by the hundred of Codeshethe that he had no chattels there, but was in the borough of Godwyn de la Legh, in Sevenhak [Sevenoaks]; therefore in mercy.

"A certain horse kicked John the Carter in his chest, so that he immediately died thereof. The first finder and four neighbours come, and are not suspected. Judgment: misfortune. Price of the horse, half a mark.

"The jurors present that the borough of Uplande in Bradested, which is the third part of the hundred of Westeram, was wont to answer at the sheriff's turn for the third part of that hundred, and now that aid is withdrawn; so that the vills of Westeram and Pontis Edulmi [Edenbridge] now wholly render aid to the sheriff. ... Therefore to be imparled therein.

"The same say that the tenants of William de Say, of Chilternherst and Thorndene and Oleslecre [or Clesletre], who dwell within the precinct of the hundred of Westeram, used to be in the borough of Westeram, and with the same borough were wont to make answer for all things, and to take part with it, before the Justices; and they have withdrawn themselves since the last iter of William of York and his associates, justices in eyre. Therefore to be imparled.

"They say also that the tenants of R., earl of Gloucester, of Berklindene and Lindhirst, who dwell within the precinct of the same hundred of Westeram, were wont to be in the borough of Westeram.

"Concerning wines sold, they say that Richard de Bedington sells wine contrary to the assise in Ponte Edulmi; therefore in mercy.

"Concerning defaults, they say that R., earl of Gloucester, did not appear on the first day before the Justices; therefore in mercy.

"The jurors present that William Atenmerke and Adam Dypres [of Ipres], formerly beadles of that hundred, made ales and gathered sheaves of corn in the autumn, extorting money from their inferiors and followers of the hundred, etc.; therefore in mercy."

<Brasted>

"Concerning wines, they say that John de Frivill sold wines contrary to the assize at Bradested.

"Concerning malefactors in parks and in preserves [vivar.] they say that Robert le Venur [i. e., the hunter], John Bode, and Stephen, servant of Robert de Sotingdone, are suspected touching the preserve [vivar.] and park of the Earl of Gloucester in Bradestede. And it is witnessed that the Earl of Gloucester sues against them by appeal. And the twelve jurors concealed this appeal in their Roll; therefore in mercy."

<Codsheath hd>

"The Vill of Chiveninge [Chevening] and three others did not come to a certain inquest; therefore in mercy.

"The bones of a woman were found in the wood of Kemesinge. The forester and another were 'attached,' but not suspected.

"A man in digging marl was crushed in the marlery of Kemesinge. Judgment: misfortune, but murder upon Kemessinge, because it does not participate with the hundred.

"James, the clerk of Sunderesse, killed Godermia de Sunderesse, in the same vill. And James has died, who never heretofore in his lifetime was indicted for that death. The first finder and four neighbours come, and are not suspected; and the township of

Sunderesse buried the aforesaid dead woman without view of the coroner; therefore in mercy.

"Geoffrey, son of Felix of Sevenhak [Sevenoaks], struck John his brother with a certain candlestick on the head, in the house of his father at Sewenhak, so that he died immediately; and Geoffrey immediately fled." [Then follow the usual proceedings]. The township buried the dead person without view of the coroner, etc. Isabella, sister of the two brothers, was attached, "because she was in the same house;" she puts herself upon the country, and is acquitted.

"Concerning minors, they say that John de Chiveninge holds an entire Knight's fee, and is of full age, and not yet a knight. Therefore in mercy.

"Unknown malefactors broke into the house of Cecily Attecumbe, in the vill of Cheveninge, and killed the same Cecily and Solomon her son, and carried away the goods there found."

A similar case at Otteford.

One man who killed another with a club was in the borough of William Erwicke, in Sunderheshe. And the township of Chyvelinge did not take him.

<Wrotham hd>

A man who killed another with a knife was imprisoned in the Archbishop's gaol at Maydenestane, and escaped.

There is an account of an affray at Hightham [Ightham] between certain thieves who had broken into a house, and "John Tassell and several others of Hightham who kept the night watches in the same town."

John Purse, chaplain of Meulinges, killed Stephen Norman with a certain axe in Siburne [Shipborne]. Letters patent of the Bishop of Rochester were delivered to the justices, claiming him as a clerk. His chattels and lay fee were taken into the King's hand, but he afterwards made a fine to have again his lay fee.

The Earl of Gloucester has withdrawn the township of Shyborne [Shipbourne] (which always used to come twice a year to the Sheriff's turn, and also to the county), to his Lowy of Tonebrigge, since the last iter of the Justices.

<Little Barnfield hd>

"John de Hope was found crushed in the marl-pit of Guhurst [Goudhurst]. The first discoverer and four neighbours come, and are not suspected, nor anyone else. No Englishry. Judgment: murder upon the Hundred. And the vill of Guhurst buried the aforesaid dead man without view of the coroner, by Benjamin de Guhurst; therefore in mercy.

"Adam Overstrod struck Walter de Lacy with a certain knife in the belly, so that he immediately died. And Adam being taken for the same murder, and imprisoned, came and acknowledged that he killed the aforesaid Walter, but he says that [he did so] in self-defence. And the jurors, being examined upon this, say that the aforesaid Walter struck the aforesaid Adam with a certain club, and maltreated him; and the aforesaid Adam resisted the same Walter, and drew out his knife, and struck him in the belly, so that he immediately died thereof. Therefore, &c. His chattels, 5s. 10d., for which the same sheriff is responsible.

"John Le Fevre, [or 'the smith,'] and Peter Le Fevre, Walter Scozfray, and William Burgeys beat Riolf de Cumbwell and Edild, his wife, being pregnant, so that owing to that beating the aforesaid Edilda gave birth to two infants, abortive, and wounded within the womb of their mother. And John and the rest were taken and imprisoned, and by the writ of the Lord King delivered and handed over by the bailiff until the coming of the Justices. And Solomon de Sandhurst ... [and ten others] became bail for John Le Fevre; and John of the Church . . . [and nine others] became bail for Peter Le Fevre; and Gregory de Stonelagherigge [and eleven others] ... became bail for the aforesaid Walter; and William Cubane [and eleven others] ... became bail for the aforesaid William Burgeys; to have them before the Justices; and they had them not on the first day; therefore in mercy. And afterwards they came, and defended the beating of the aforesaid Riolf and his wife, and the whole, &c., and for good and ill put themselves on the country. And the jurors of that Hundred and of Twyford and Brenchele say upon their oath that the aforesaid John and the others came from the county of Sussex to the house of the aforesaid Riolf and his wife, and demanded ale from them for money, who denied there was any ale for sale in their house. And they immediately afterwards broke a certain window of the same house, and entering they took ale at their pleasure. And the aforesaid Riolf went to them, and demanded why they thus broke into his house, and took his ale against his will. And they immediately rushed upon him, and beat him, so that he languished therefrom for a long time. And upon this came the wife of the aforesaid Riolf, shrieking, and attempted to succour her husband. The aforesaid John and the others, rushing upon her, beat her [so] that she languished for a long time, and afterwards she gave birth to two infants before her time of bearing by ten weeks; but after their birth they lived for eight days, so that they were baptized. But they [the jurors] say precisely that, by the blows which the aforesaid William Burgeys gave to the aforesaid woman with a certain mace, she brought forth her children, before her time of bearing, maimed, and whereof they died. Therefore the aforesaid William, etc. Let inquiry be made as to his chattels in co. Sussex; and let the aforesaid John and the others be kept in custody. Afterwards the aforesaid John Le Fevre, Peter Le Fevre, and Walter Scozfray came and offered ten marks to the Lord King to have a good inquisition, and they are received, by the pledge of William de Elardenne [and twelve others]. ... And the twelve jurors of the Hundred of Maydene-Wechestane, together with the aforesaid Hundreds, say upon their oath that they are not guilty of the death of the aforesaid infants, nor of any other misdeed.

Therefore they are acquitted therefrom.

"Concerning those who have withdrawn the suit of the Hundred [court], etc., they [the jurors] say that the men of the Abbot of Boxle, who were always wont to do suit at the two lagedaghes [law days], do not now do suit. Therefore to be imparled [loquend'] therein. And upon this comes the Abbot by his attorney, and produces a charter of the present Lord King, which testifies that the aforesaid Abbot and his monks of Boxele and their men are to be quit from all gelds, danegelds, hidages, scutages, shires, laths, hundreds, and county courts (?), and from all occasions which pertain to us [the King], etc.

<half of Watchlingstone hd - the other half counted as part of the lowy of Tonbridge>

"Richard, son of Roger le Coliere was found drowned in a certain ditch in Pepindebire [Pembury]. ... No Englishry. Sentence: murder upon the hundred. And he was buried by the view of Robert de Barbling, the coroner; and forasmuch as he was coroner of that Lath, and came not to view other dead [persons], therefore to judgment concerning him.

"Isabella, daughter of Cecily de Speldhirst, fell into a certain trough (gutera) full of water of a certain water-mill in the vill of Speldhirst, so that she was immediately drowned. ... Judgment: misfortune. Price of the trough, 3s. ... And the vill of Speldhirst buried the aforesaid dead without view of the coroner; therefore in mercy. And the twelve jurors concealed tho fall in their roll; ... therefore in mercy."

"Joan, daughter of Geoffrey de Pepingebire, was found crushed in a marl-pit. ...

"Thomas, son of Mabel de Lodingdenne, was sitting near a fire on which was placed an earthen pot with boiling water, and a pig came by and overturned the pot, by which the water fell upon the aforesaid Thomas, and he was so scalded that he died within three days. Nobody is suspected thereof. Judgment: misfortune. Price of the pig, 6d., for which the sheriff is responsible."

<Littlefield hd>

"Concerning churches, they say that the church of West Pecham is of the gift of the Lord King, and Simon the chaplain now holds it of the gift of the Lord King; and it is worth fifteen marks a year."

The manor of Pecham is held "by the serjeantcy of keeping and changing <mewing> one of the King's goshawks."

A woman accused four other women of coming to her house by night and burning her brewery [bracinam]. She offers to prove it, "as a woman against women." The others plead that "no woman can appeal any one except for the death of her husband killed in her arms, and for felony done to her own body" [meaning that no woman who

had a husband could plead independently of him], so this plea was allowed, and the appellant committed to gaol for a false appeal. The matter was, however, inquired into for the observance of the King's peace, and it was found that the defendants were not guilty.

<Twyford hd> "The Hundred of Twyferde.

A man was found dead under an oak tree in Aldinge [Yalding]. No Englishry. Judgment: murder upon the hundred.

Another was found drowned in a marl-pit in Aldinges [Yalding].

Two men were mowing together in a meadow in Aldinge, and leaving their scythes began to wrestle. One threw the other, and his knife, piercing through its sheath, entered into the other's thigh, and wounded him mortally. The culprit fled and was outlawed. The vill of Netlested and three others did not come to the inquest; therefore in mercy. The man was followed with the hue as far as the county of Sussex. He fled to the Rye in the same county, and put himself into the church of that town, but what became of him is not known; therefore to be inquired concerning him in the county of Sussex.

Daniel and Lambert, men of Philip le Kacherel, were accused of gathering sheaves in autumn by force from those who do suit to their hundreds [hundr. sua]. They are acquitted, having been indicted through the hatred and by the abetting of Bartholomew de Woderingebire [Wateringbury].

A man took sanctuary in the church of Huntingeton [Hunton], and confessed several larcenies, and abjured the realm, etc.

Certain persons were indicted for burglaries, larcenies, etc. One of them "had no chattels, and was in no borough, but was of the manupast [i. e., domestic] of Walter de Wahulle, in Nettlestede."

Bartholomew de Wateringebire is accused of having received his brother, who had killed a certain man. He puts himself upon the country, and offers the King five marks to have a good inquisition of the knights and nearest hundreds; they are received by certain pledges. The twelve jurors of the hundreds of Larkefeude, Brenchele, and Wrotham, and the four nearest villa, together with William de Oteringedene, Peter de Ocham, Reginald de Cornhulle, and Henry Malemeyns [the knights], say that he is not guilty.

<Brenchley hd>

"Hugh Fitz Walter was found crushed in the marl-pit of Horsmundenne. The first discoverer and four neighbours come, and are not suspected. No Englishry; therefore the murder upon the Hundred. And the vill of Horsmundenne buried him without view of the coroner; therefore in mercy. And Thomas Perdriz falsely presented himself a neighbour; therefore let him be taken into custody. He is pardoned because [he is] a pauper.

"Hugh, son of Heliwysa, was found scalded by hot water in the house of Helewysa, his mother, by misfortune, in the vill of Branchelee, so that after three days he died thereof. The first finder and four neighbours come, and are not suspected. Judgment: misfortune. And the town of Branchele buried him without view of the coroner; therefore in mercy.

"Three children of Henry Sherp were found burnt in his house, which was burnt by misfortune, in the vill of Lamberhirst. The first discoverer and four neighbours come, and are not suspected. Judgment: misfortune. And the vill of Lamberhirst buried the aforesaid dead without view of the coroner; therefore in mercy.

"Richard Fitz Walter, of Lamberhurst, struck Robert de Merbire on the head in Lamberhirst, so that within fifteen days after he died thereof. And the aforesaid Richard fled into the county of Sussex, and is suspected of that death. Therefore let him be banished and outlawed. He had no chattels, nor is anything known of his borough, because [he was] of the county of Sussex. And the vill of Lamberhirst made no suit after him; therefore in mercy.

"Concerning encroachments, they say that Nigel, the Chaplain of Lamberhirst, has made a certain encroachment upon the King's highway in Lamberhirst, and appropriated it to himself, erecting upon the same one house and a certain gateway; and it contains in length five perches and in breadth one perch. Therefore let the aforesaid encroachment be taken into the hand of the Lord the King; and the aforesaid Nigel therefore in mercy. Afterwards the aforesaid Nigel came and made a fine, so that that encroachment may remain to him, for half a mark, by the pledge of William de Tuttesham, and that he do pay 1d. per annum at the Exchequer of the Lord the King for that tenement.

"Concerning defaults, they say that the Earl of Warwick did not come on the first day before the Justices; therefore in mercy.

"Thomas de la Warre, taken for suspicion of robbery at Tonebrige, became approver, and appealed Adam de Fernche, who is dead, William Tange, and Robert Attehill of the robbery, and company of the robbers; so that through his appeal they were taken and imprisoned. And William was replevined by Jordan Raddene and his borough in Brenchele, and the aforesaid Robert by William Godefrey and his borough in Lamberhirst, to have them before the Justices; and they had them not on the first day; therefore in mercy. And afterwards they came, and for good and evil put themselves on the country. And the jurors say they are not guilty; therefore [they are] quit therefrom. And it was testified that the aforesaid Thomas afterwards withdrew himself from his appeal, and was hanged at Tonebrige, before the Justices appointed to deliver the gaol. And the twelve jurors concealed that appeal; therefore in mercy.

"Concerning those who have withdrawn suits, they say that Walter Fitz Edmund, and certain others, tenants of R. de Gray, have withdrawn the suit from this Hundred which they were wont to do with the borough of Horsmundenne, but they know not by what warrant; therefore to be imparled therein.

"Nicholas de Blechindenne and Solomon de Ludringe, indicted for robbery of horses, come and defend the larceny and the whole, and for good and evil put themselves on the country. And the twelve jurors and four townsmen, the nearest neighbours, say upon their oath that they are not guilty thereof, nor of any other misdeed. Therefore [they are] quit therefrom.

"Concerning indicted persons, they say that Andrew of the Wood, in Brenchesle [now the site of the Paddock Wood Station ?] withdrew him self, and is suspected. Therefore let him be banished and outlawed. He had no chattels, and was in the borough of Jordan Kat in Brenchesle; therefore in mercy."

<Maidstone hd>

A man who killed another in Maydenestane, fled, and put himself in the church there, but afterwards escaped. Judgment for the escape upon the vill of Maydene[stane]. He was outlawed, etc. Another man was taken for that death, and imprisoned in the Archbishop's prison there, but escaped and put himself in the church, and confessed the deed. Therefore to judgment for the escape upon the Archbishop.

John, son of Daniel the Dyer, fell from his father's horse into the Medway, and was drowned. Price of the horse, half a mark, etc.

A man was pursued to the Abbey of Boxele by a certain chaplain for stealing a chalice in the church of Limines [Lyminge]. It was found upon him, having been broken in pieces.

The king's bailiff in this hundred distrained a certain person for a debt to the king, and the archbishop's bailiff sent several men to retake the distresses, or else to take the king's bailiff, who with his clerk and others drove the cattle distrained towards Rochester Castle, and captured the archbishop's men who came to re-take them, remaining for the night at Woteringebire. On the morrow many [men] of the archbishop's fee came and took away from them the distresses, and captured certain men, whom they led to Maydenestane and imprisoned there. The archbishop's bailiff also sent many men to the land of the king's bailiff, in the hundred of Brenchele, which men took his plough yoked with oxen, and drove it to Maydenestane, where it was detained till the latter made a fine with the former. Judgment is to be taken as to [whether the distresses were levied in the archbishop's] liberty. Moreover the official of the archbishop "compelled" the king's bailiff by ecclesiastical censure till he came to [make] satisfaction, and caused him to be cudgelled round the church of Maidenestane for three Lord's days; therefore to be imparled.

<Eyhorne hd>

A man was killed by a bull in a certain wood in Eylonington. Price of the bull, 8s. And the towns of Hereitesham, Audingtine, and Frethenested [Frinsted], falsely appraised that deodand before

the coroner; therefore in mercy. And the twelve jurors did the same in their roll; therefore in mercy.

A woman, who had killed her husband and a woman at Bradeghate, fled to Lenham, and was taken and imprisoned in the prison of the Abbot of St. Augustine.

Two men and a woman of Ullcumbe and Tentwardenne killed a man in Estsutton [East Sutton]. No Englishry, etc.

A woman was scalded to death by hot water in Buctone [Boughton]. Two men falsely presented themselves as neighbours, and made a fine for 10s. Two others, being neighbours, did not appear.

Ralph de St. Leger has newly erected a market and warren in his manor of Ullcumbe; the jurors know not by what warrant.

Account of an encroachment on the king's highway in Shelve, its course having been diverted, and money levied from passengers.

<Longbridge hd>

William, son of William de Wynchelese, was found dead in the borough of Essedeford [Ashford]. No one suspected. The borough buried him without view of the coroner, etc.

An unknown man was killed in the borough of Gingessnode [Kingsnorth]. No Englishry, etc. Two men and a woman were taken for the same deed, and hanged at Maydenestane.

A man killed another with a club, and fled to the church of Meresham. He was not in a borough, being a clerk. The vill of Chileham did not come to the inquest; therefore in mercy.

"The jurors present that the Abbot of Battle has diverted the King's highway, which was through the middle of his wood of Kinges-Snode [Kingsnorth], and by which the men of the country used to pass, closing the whole of that wood; so that the passengers by that diversion are disturbed in journeying by one quarentene [forty perches]. But they say that that road is sufficiently convenient for passengers. Therefore to be imparled.

<Chart hd>

Two men killed another man in Bartlesdene, and fled to the church of Wodechirche. No Englishry; therefore the murder upon the hundred. The township of Beatrichesdene [Bethersden] did not take them; therefore in mercy. The borough of Shrimplingdene, with the township of Batlesdene buried the dead man without view of the coroner; therefore in mercy.

Two men were taken for the murder of a man in the Hundred of Langebrigge, and hanged before the justices for gaol delivery.

<Lowy of Tonbridge>

"Pleas of the Crown of the Lowy of Tonebrigge at Tonebrigge.

"These were the stewards since the last iter: to wit, Geoffrey de Rokeburn, Robert de Hertwell, and Walter de Aldwite, who is now steward.

"These are the coroners in this Lowy since the last iter: Simon de Baridene, who died, and John de Cortone, who now answers.

"The whole liberty of this Lowy records that Englishry is presented in this Lowy by one [person] on the part of the father, and another on the part of the mother.

"The Half-Hundred of Wechelestan.

"Richard Wynter, charged with the death of a certain Jul[ia], daughter of Goda, who was found killed in the field of Halebeche, in the Hundred of Faveresham, and imprisoned in the prison of this Lowy, comes and defends the death. ...

"Roger de Shoford, John his son, and Eleanor wife of the aforesaid Roger, taken for the death of Richard de la Chapel and the reception of thieves, come. And John says that he is a clerk, and cannot answer here. And thereupon comes Walkelin, official of the Bishop of Rochester, and claims him as a clerk. But that it may be known how he is delivered to him, let the truth of the matter be inquired of by the country. And the Jurors of the Hundred of Larkefende, Mallinge, and Twyforde say that he is guilty. Therefore let him be delivered to him for such." . . . Roger was also found guilty. ...

"The Borough [Burgus] of Tonebrigge comes by twelve.

"Geoffrey the Miller was taken in this borough [burgo] with certain stolen linen cloths, by the suit of a certain Nicholas Cok; and in the Court of the Earl of Gloucester in this borough he called therein to warrant a certain John Wranek, that the same John had delivered to him the aforesaid linen cloths. So that there was a duel [a wager of battel] between them, and the aforesaid Geoffrey was overcome in that duel, and hanged. His chattels, 18d., for which the aforesaid steward [of the Earl] shall answer."

A similar duel [wager of battel] concerning oxen stolen in Sussex.

A woman appealed a man in the Court of the Lowy, for rape, and then refused to prosecute him. As they had come to an agreement together, they were both committed to gaol, being paupers.

"Richard Le Frelande was taken for suspicion of larceny before the iter of H. of Bath and his associates, Justices last Itinerant in this county, and imprisoned in the county prison in this borough, and escaped therefrom. And it is witnessed that a certain Hugh La Wete sent him a certain loaf, in which was a certain file, to deliver him from that prison." ... Richard returned after a long

while, and sold his chattels and houses which he had in this vill. Hugh's chattels to be confiscated for his flight, and as this vill received him after his trespass, it is in mercy.

Pleas and Assizes of the Liberty of Tunebrige.

The assize comes to take cognizance whether John de Curtone unjustly disseized Bartholomew de Moristone and Matilda his wife of their free holding in Haldlo, Leghe, and Pecham, viz., of 19s. 6d. of rent. The suit was withdrawn, and the plaintiffs and their pledges made a fine for one mark.

Alice, daughter of Godwin, claims against Richard of the Mill, six acres of land in Sipburne [Shipbourne] as her right, as they were leased to him by her father for a term which has passed. He called Richard de Claygate, for aid of the court, who did not come, and whose lands and chattels were therefore ordered to be seized. Afterwards he came and testified that the defendant had entry not from her father, but her husband. The plaintiff could not disprove this, and was therefore in mercy. She is a pauper.

The assize comes to take cognizance whether Henry Ruffus and Helewysa his wife unjustly disseized Walter Fitz Blakman of his free holding in Haudlo. The jurors say that Walter recovered seizin before the justices in eyre at Rochester, but was hindered from his seizin by Ralph de Raleigh, then bailiff of Tunebrigge, because the assize was held without the liberty. It was "considered" that "Walter should recover seizin.

Also whether William Kippe, kinsman of William Hurry, was seized in his demesne, etc., of one messuage and two acres of land in Tunebrigge, held by Simon Smith and Peter son of John, who come and say that the land which he claims is Gavelkind, and that he has two younger brothers, a certain Geoffrey and William, who have the same right in that land as William himself has. And William cannot disprove this; therefore Simon and Peter are acquitted, and William in mercy. He is a pauper.

"Pleas of the Liberty of the Lowy of Tunebrigge, <20 Oct> from the day of St. Michael, in three weeks, in the 39th year."

The assize comes to take cognizance whether Robert, son of Jordan, brother of Michael and John de Lockelege, and uncle of Jordan de Lockelege and Robert his brother, was seized in his demesne as of fee of ten and a half acres of land and the fourth part of one mill, in Pepingebire [Pembury] and Twydelege [Tudeley], on the day when he died. The premises are held by Matilda de Sebecome, who says Robert did not die seized of them as of fee; that her father held them in fee; that Robert prevailed on him to make him a charter of feoffment, but gave him no seizin; and that Robert never had seizin thereof except in right of herself, she having married him. The jurors say that Richard made a charter of the premises to Robert, and placed him in seizin of a certain messuage belonging to the aforesaid holdings by the hasp of the door; but nevertheless the aforesaid Richard remained in seizin of those

holdings, and likewise of the aforesaid message, and ploughed the land with his own plough almost all his life, until he died, when Robert carried him from the message in a sheet. The jury being asked whether Robert did any fealty to the chief lords of that fee, say no. Matilda is discharged, and Michael and the rest take nothing by this assize, and are in mercy for a false claim. They are paupers.

The aforesaid Matilda complains that John Cucku, who made a covenant to give her his advocacy (patrocinium) in the above plea, and to whom she explained all her counsel and defence, carried away certain writings and documents by which her ancestors were enfeoffed of the premises, and joined himself to Michael de Lockelege and his partners, who now claim those holdings against her, whereby she has received damage to the value of 40s. She offers the King half a mark for an inquiry, and it is received, by the pledge of William Kayser. The jurors witness the same, and John is committed to gaol.

William de Romesedde presented himself on the fourth day against Julian de Bestane, concerning a plea that he should render to him the customs and services which he ought to render for his free holding which he holds of him in Tonebrigge, as in rents, arrearages, etc. As he made many defaults, the sheriff was ordered to distrain him, and to produce his body at Chichester on <12 Nov> the morrow of St. Martin.

"Pleas of Juries and Assizes at Canterbury, on <25 Jun> the Morrow of St. John the Baptist, in the 39th year of the Reign of King Henry, before Gilbert de Preston and his Associates, Justices in Eyre in the county of Kent."

Nigel, vicar of the church of Lamberherst, and another, are charged with disseizing Absalom de Lambhirst of his free holding in Lamberherst.

"And Thomas Eddward came and appeared in court; and he is under age; and because the aforesaid Thomas [son of Thomas le Muner] and the others claim to hold the aforesaid holding in Gavelikend, the county [the jurors] being asked at what age a man ought to make answer for holdings of this kind, say that every one of the age of fifteen years ought to make answer by the custom of Kent for all kinds of holdings which are held in Gavelikend [to] whatever writ of the Lord King which may have been obtained against him, to wit, both to a writ de recto and to any other writ; and not under fifteen years. And because the same Thomas is not yet of the age of 15 years, it is ordered that this plea be respited sine die until the [full] age of the aforesaid Thomas Eddward."

"Haimo Smith, of Betham, who brought an assize of mortis ancestoris against Peter de Drindle and Baldwin de Herwerdeslee concerning one message and twenty acres of land in Cranebrok, is not present. Therefore he and his pledges for the prosecution in mercy, to wit, William de Halfnod and Robert Caretar (Carter), of Betenham, etc.

"Geoffrey, son of William Herberd, and William his brother, who brought a writ of entry against Ric. Colet and another, concerning a holding in Speldhurst, are not present.

"Adam, son of William le Ferte, sues against Robert lo Ferte, for the fourth part of seven acres of land, with appurtenances, in Stapelhurst, as his right and the reasonable part which fell to him of the inheritance of Walter le Ferte, father of the aforesaid Robert, and grandfather of the selfsame Adam, whose heirs they are." As John and Walter, the other sons of Walter, did not appear to claim their portions, they were summoned. "And Robert comes, and says that he ought not to make answer to him therein upon this writ, because he says that the same Adam has a certain Robert for his brother, of the same father and mother, who has as great a right of claiming his reasonable portion of the aforesaid inheritance as the selfsame Adam, and who is not named in the writ. And Adam cannot deny this. And therefore it is agreed that the aforesaid Robert [shall be acquitted] therefrom sine die; and Adam in mercy for a false claim."

"Robert de Bradebyre claims against Anselm de Bradebyre a third part of fifty acres of land and a third part of the moiety of one messuage with appurtenances in Alding (Yalding) and Meredenne, and against Walter de Bradebyre a third part of fifty acres of land and a third part of the moiety of one messuage with appurtenances in the same towns, as his right and reasonable portion, which fell to him of the inheritance which was of Walter de Bradebyre, father of the same Robert and Anselm, and grandfather of the aforesaid Walter, — whose heirs they are, and who lately died, etc., and whereof he says that the aforesaid Walter was seized of the aforesaid holding in his demesne as of fee and of right in the time of the King's grandfather [Henry II.], taking esplees [the rents and profits] therefrom to the value, etc." The property descended to his three sons, Solomon, Robert, and Anselm. The plaintiff complains that the whole of it is now in the possession of Anselm and Walter, the son of Solomon. Anselm says he holds jointly with Walter, and that as Walter is under age, he can make no answer. Walter, by Anselm his guardian, requests a decision whether he ought to make answer. Robert says Walter's majority ought not to be awaited in this case; and that Solomon died before Walter senior.

"Afterwards, at Chichester, in <? Nov 1255> the 40th year [of Henry III., 1256], it was found that Walter was of full age [15], and ought to make answer according to ancient custom. The defendants then stated that the plaintiff was a bastard; "for they say that the same Robert was born before the aforesaid Walter, the elder, had espoused a certain Hawisia, mother of the aforesaid Robert." The defendants were discharged sine die; and Robert is to have a writ to the Bishop of Rochester, "that calling together, etc., [he should inquire into] the truth of the matter, etc., and make known what [he might discover] therein."

"Henry de la Knolle sues against William de Knolle for three acres of land in Audinton (Aldington), whereof his mother Alice was

seized in the time of King John, and took esplees. It descended from her to her three sons, two of whom are dead. William rests himself on a jury of twelve men of gavelykend instead of the great assize. Four men holding in gavelykend came, and elected fifteen other men. Afterwards Henry gave half a mark for licence to make an agreement; Henry released his right and claim to William for ever, and William gave him 40d.

"Alice de Helles claims against Nicholas Malemeyns ten acres of land in Cudenne (Cowden), and against Jordan Bonde and Godelena his mother seven acres there, whereof one Pagan, her ancestor, was seized in the time of Henry II., and took esplees. It descended from him to his four sons, and from them to William, one of the sons, from him to his son Gilbert, and from him to his daughter the plaintiff. Nicholas says he cannot make answer without Agnes his wife, whose right and perquisite is the said land. Jordan and Godelena say they can make no answer, because Godelena says that she claims nothing in the aforesaid except in the name of her free bench [dower], of the gift of a certain Roger Le Bonde, father of the aforesaid Jordan and of one Gilbert and one Richard, whose heirs they are; and she says that she and the aforesaid Jordan, Gilbert, and Richard hold the aforesaid land in common, as land being undivided, so that her free bench has not yet been assigned to her." Jordan says he holds in purparty [jointly] with his said brothers Gilbert and Richard; and that "they hold the aforesaid land in common, nor does any of them know his separate portion." Alice afterwards came and requested licence to withdraw from her writ, and obtained it.

"Joan, who was the wife of William Le Moyne (the Monk), claims against William de Rodyham the moiety of one messuage, sixty acres of land, 3s. of rent, and the moiety of a rent of seven hens, with appurtenances, in Merden and Holingburn, as her dower, etc., and whereof the aforesaid William, formerly her husband, dowered her." The defendant says he holds the moiety of fifty-six and a half acres by lease from the said William, for nine years, and calls six sisters of the plaintiff to warrant therein; two of them being under age and in Joan's guardianship. He says that the rent was given him by William by charter, and that the moiety of the remaining three and a half acres was given him by Ernald, husband of one of the sisters, by charter; but Ernald says that the land he gave him forms no part of the premises. Afterwards the sisters and their husbands come to make warrant to the said William, "and by licence they render to the aforesaid Joan her aforesaid dower." They themselves have no portion of the lands of William Le Moyne; and therefore Joan is to recover seisin [of the other moiety].

"Joseph son of William Waldisse claims against John de Frenelingham and Isabella his wife 100 acres of land in Tentardenne. Defendants say they hold the land in purparty with Agatha, wife of Henry de Hore, of the inheritance of Philip Fitz John, father of the said Isabel and Agatha; and they can make no answer without Henry and Agatha, who are summoned to be at Chichester on <3 Nov> the morrow of All Souls. Joseph puts in his place Thomas Dudeman."

Other pleas respecting lands in Hollingeburn and Greenwich, and respecting the abduction of cattle, are also referred to Chichester.

In a case respecting land in Dyngemareis (Dengemarsh) an objection was taken that the plaintiff's husband was omitted in the writ. "And Amicia says that in truth at one time she had the aforesaid Robert for husband, but she says that the same Robert for a long time past has been a leper, and on account of that infirmity he betook himself into a certain religious house, to wit, into the Hospital of Lepers at Romenal [Romney], where also he still remains." She said further that after her husband had gone into the hospital, the defendant ejected her from her free holding. — Verdict for plaintiff.

The assize came to take cognisance whether Richard Poneshurst, father of Eli, was seized of $17\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land, 2s. $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. of rent, and a rent of three hens, in Brenchesle and Horsmondenn, in the holding of certain persons, who appear and say that they ought not to make answer as Eli has a brother, Gervase by name, of the same father and the same mother, and who has as much right to sue for the premises as he has. Eli could not deny this. They were discharged sine die. Eli in mercy.

Another plea respecting ten acres in Brenchesle. The defendant, Jordan Cat, calls a certain person to warrant, who calls another person to warrant. He is to produce them both at Chichester, on <12 Nov> the morrow of St. Martin's, for aid of the court.

Emma de Grenewiz (Greenwich) claims two messuages in Brenchesle against Robert Cat and Robert Bryt, but releases the whole to them for four and a half marks, the first half to be paid in one year, and the other half six months after.

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